

## **Abstract**

A system and method for automatically performing validation and/or formatting procedures for a graphical user interface (GUI) described in a markup language file are

5 disclosed. The graphical user interface markup language description may comprise descriptions of various types of graphical user interface elements for which text is to be

validated/formatted, such as form fields, tables, hypertext links, etc. An author of a

markup language file may include various custom markup language attributes in order to

automatically validate/format text for a GUI element, for example by adding a custom

10 HSFORMAT="usssn" attribute to a GUI element descriptor to indicate that the element

should be automatically validated/formatted according to a U.S. social security number

pattern. Any of various codes or patterns may be supported in a particular embodiment,

and an extensible framework enabling support for new types of codes or patterns to be